

communication channel, for displaying information on a screen of a terminal device of each of the users, comprising:

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working situation display means for collectively displaying an information aggregate including at least two types of information for each user, including the user's working situation image, and character information concerning the user's working situation on the screen of the terminal device of the user; and

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virtual room display means for displaying, for each user, diagram images indicating the user's virtual single-room office on the screen of the terminal device of the user.

2. Cancelled.

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3. (Amended) The distributed office system according to claim 1, wherein selecting the user to be displayed in the virtual office, and changing of arrangement of a display position of the information concerning the user are performed by a specific user.

4. (Amended) The distributed office system according to claim 1, wherein said working situation display means displays a virtual user common space area including a meeting room, a training room, a data room, and a lounge with the virtual office on the screen of the terminal device.

5. (Unamended) The distributed office system according to claim 1, wherein said character information concerning the working situation includes at least one of user's name, a current working situation, an operation content, a reason why the user is not working, a place where the user is, and a future working schedule.

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6. (Amended) The distributed office system according to claim 1, wherein when telephone communication is performed via a telephone channel board disposed in said server device, said working situation display means displays character information indicating that the user is on the telephone as said character information concerning another user's working situation.

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7. (Amended) The distributed office system according to claim 1, wherein when a user is resting, said working situation display means does not display the resting user's working situation image, and displays an image indicating that the user is resting.

8. (Amended) The distributed office system according to claim 1, further comprising:

selecting means for selecting another user's virtual single-room office on the screen;

visitation input means for inputting visitation to the selected other user's virtual single-room office; and

virtual single-room office display means for, when the visitation is inputted, displaying the inside of the virtual single-room office of a visited user on the screen of the terminal device of a visitor, wherein

the screen in which the inside of the virtual single-room office of the visited user is displayed includes a visited user's working situation image, and a diagram image meaning fittings or fixtures of the visited user.

9. (Amended) The distributed office system according to claim 1, further

comprising:

selecting means for selecting another user's virtual single-room office

on the screen;

visitation input means for inputting visitation to the selected user's

virtual single-room office; and

office display means for, when the visitation is inputted, displaying the inside of the virtual single-room office of a visitor on the screen of the terminal device of a visited user, wherein

the screen in which the inside of the virtual single-room office of the visitor is displayed includes a visitor's working situation image, a diagram image meaning visitor's fittings or fixtures, and a diagram image indicating an entrance door to the office, and the visitor's working situation image is displayed in a window portion of the door.

10. (Amended) The distributed office system according to claim 1, further

comprising:

selecting means for selecting another user's virtual single-room office
on the screen;

input means for inputting visitation or telephone to the selected user's
virtual single-room office; and

telephone communication means by which when the visitation or the
telephone to the other user's virtual single-room office is inputted, the server device makes
telephone calls to telephone subscriber numbers registered beforehand of both the users via a
telephone channel board, so that telephone communication can be realized between the users.

11. (Amended) The distributed office system according to claim 1,

wherein said terminal device comprises:

cameras for photographing users' images;

converting means for converting the users' images photographed by
said cameras to compressed images with a predetermined number of pixels; and

transmitting means for transmitting the converted images to said server
device,

said server device comprises:

generating means for generating a reduced compressed image by
reducing the number of pixels of the received image; and

transmitting means for transmitting the generated reduced compressed
images to said terminal device, and

the transmitted reduced compressed images are displayed in the screens
of said terminal device as the other users' working situation images.

12. (Amended) The distributed office system according to claim 8,
wherein said terminal device comprises:

a camera for photographing users' images;

converting means for converting the users' images photographed by
said camera to compressed images with a predetermined number of pixels; and

transmitting means for transmitting the converted image to said server

device, and

said server device comprises:

transmitting means for transmitting the compressed image of the visited
user to the visitor's terminal device.

13. (Amended) The distributed office system according to claim 9,
wherein said terminal device comprises:

cameras for photographing users' images;

converting means for converting the users' images photographed by
said camera to compressed images with a predetermined number of pixels; and

transmitting means for transmitting the converted image to said server

device, and

said server device comprises:

transmitting means for transmitting the compressed image of the visited
user to the visitor's terminal device.

14. (Amended) The distributed office system according to claim 1, wherein when the working situation image of another user using a portable terminal device having no camera as said terminal device is displayed, said working situation display means displays a user's image registered beforehand in said server device.

15. (Amended) The distributed office system according to claim 1, wherein said working situation display means comprises setting means for setting a frame rate by a user's operation when another user's working situation image photographed by a camera disposed on the terminal device is received and displayed.

16. (Amended) The distributed office system according to claim 3, further comprising:

indicating means for indicating an organization on the screen in which the virtual single-room offices of the users belonging to the same organization are displayed in the same virtual office; and

moving means for moving the screen to the virtual office area of a different organization in accordance with the indication by said indicating means.

17. (Amended) The distributed office system according to claim 14, further comprising:

referring means for referring to profile concerning a screen display ability of a portable information terminal registered in said server device;

generating means for generating display data for screen display of said portable information terminal by said server device; and

transmitting means for transmitting the generated display data to said portable information terminal, wherein

said portable information terminal displays images of the virtual single-room office, a virtual office area and a user common space area in accordance with the received display data.

18. (Amended) The distributed office system according to claim 1, wherein the character information concerning the working situation is inputted by a telephone set ten key, in addition to by said terminal device.

19. (Unamended) The distributed office system according to claim 1, wherein said server device comprises:

time setting means for setting a user's standard working time; and

sound instruction sending means for sending an instruction for melody

sound to said terminal device, and

said terminal device comprises:

a sound source device; and

ringing means for receiving said sent instruction for the melody sound to ring the melody sound at a work start time, a lunch break start time, a lunch break end time, a work end time, and a core time end time for an ordinary working user.

20. (Amended) The distributed office system according to claim 1,
wherein said server device comprises:
setting means for setting a user's standard rest time or a rest interval
time; and
sound instruction sending means for sending an instruction for melody
sound to said terminal device, and
said terminal device comprises:
a sound source device; and
ringing means for receiving the sent instruction for melody sound to
ring a rest promoting melody sound for urging a worker's rest.

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21. (Amended) A method of managing a distributed office system
provided with terminal devices installed for a plurality of users, and a server device connected to
the terminal devices via a communication channel for displaying information on a screen of the
terminal device of the user in the distributed office system, comprising the steps of:
displaying diagram images for each user indicating a user's virtual
single-room office on the screen of the terminal device of the user;
collectively displaying an information aggregate of at least two types of
information, for each diagram image including a user's working situation image, and character
information concerning the user's working situation.

22. Cancelled.

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23. (Amended) The distributed office system managing method according to claim 21, wherein selecting of the users to be displayed in the virtual office, and changing of arrangement of a display position of the information concerning the user are performed by a specific user.

24. (Amended) The distributed office system managing method according to claim 21, wherein said step of displaying the information concerning the other user's working situation comprises displaying a virtual user common space area including a meeting room, a training room, a data room, or a lounge with the virtual office area on the screen of the terminal device.

25. (Amended) The distributed office system managing method according to claim 21, wherein the character information concerning the working situation includes at least one of a user's name, a present working situation and an operation content, a reason why the user is not working and a place where the user is, and a future working schedule.

26. (Amended) The distributed office system managing method according to claim 21, wherein when telephone communication is performed via a telephone channel board disposed in the server device, said step of displaying the information concerning the user's working situation comprises displaying character information indicating that the user is on the telephone as the character information concerning the user's working situation.

27. (Amended) The distributed office system managing method according to claim 21, wherein said step of displaying the information concerning the user's working situation comprises, when the user is resting, not displaying the resting user's working situation image, and displaying an image indicating that the user is resting.

28. (Amended) The distributed office system managing method according to claim 21, further comprising the steps of:

selecting another user's virtual single-room office on the screen;
inputting visitation to the selected other user's virtual single-room office; and

when the visitation is inputted, displaying the inside of the virtual single-room office of a visited user on the screen of the terminal device of a visitor, wherein

the screen in which the inside of the virtual single-room office of the visited user is displayed includes a visited user's working situation image, and a diagram image meaning fittings or fixtures of the visited user.

29. (Amended) The distributed office system managing method according to claim 21, further comprising the steps of:

selecting another user's virtual single-room office on the screen;
inputting visitation to the selected user's virtual single-room office; and
when the visitation is inputted, displaying the inside of the virtual single-room office of a visitor on the screen of the terminal device of a visited user, wherein

the screen in which the inside of the virtual single-room office of the visitor is displayed includes a visitor's working situation image, a diagram image meaning visitor's fittings or fixtures, and a diagram image indicating an entrance door to the office, and the visitor's working situation image is displayed in a window portion of the door.

30. (Amended) The distributed office system managing method according to claim 21, further comprising the steps of:

selecting another user's virtual single-room office on the screen;
inputting visitation or telephone to the selected user's virtual single-room office; and

when the visitation or the telephone to the selected user's virtual single-room office is inputted, making telephone calls to telephone subscriber numbers registered beforehand of both the users via a telephone channel board by the server device, so that telephone communication can be realized between the users.

31. (Amended) The distributed office system managing method according to claim 21, further comprising the steps of:

converting a user's image photographed by a camera disposed on said terminal device to a compressed image with a predetermined number of pixels; and

transmitting the converted image to the server device;

generating a reduced compressed image by reducing the number of pixels of the received image by the server device;

transmitting the generated reduced compressed image to the terminal device; and

displaying said transmitted reduced compressed image as another user's working situation image in the screen of the terminal device.

32. (Amended) The distributed office system managing method according to claim 28, further comprising the steps of:

converting a user's image photographed by a camera disposed on the terminal device to a compressed image with a predetermined number of pixels;

transmitting the converted image to the server device; and

transmitting the compressed image of the visited user to the visitor's terminal device by the server device.

33. (Amended) The distributed office system managing method according to claim 29, further comprising the steps of:

converting a user's image photographed by a camera disposed on the terminal device to a compressed image with a predetermined number of pixels;

transmitting the converted image to the server device; and

transmitting the compressed image of the visited user to the visitor's terminal device by the server device.

34. (Amended) The distributed office system managing method according to claim 21, wherein when the working situation image of another user using a portable terminal

device not having a camera as the terminal device is displayed, said step of displaying the information concerning the user's working situation comprises displaying a user's image registered before hand in the server device.

35. (Amended) The distributed office system managing method according to claim 21, wherein said step of displaying the information concerning the user's working situation comprises the steps of: receiving the user's working situation image photographed by a camera disposed on the terminal device; and displaying the image in a frame rate set by a user's operation.

36. (Amended) The distributed office system managing method according to claim 23, further comprising the steps of:

indicating an organization on the screen on which the virtual single-room offices of the users belonging to the same organization are displayed in the same virtual office area; and

moving the screen to the virtual office area of the different organization in accordance with the indication.

37. (Amended) The distributed office system managing method according to claim 34, further comprising the steps of:

referring to profile concerning a screen display ability of a portable information terminal registered in the server device;

generating optimum display data for screen display of the portable information terminal by the server device; and

transmitting the generated display data to the portable information terminal, wherein

the portable information terminal displays images of the virtual single-room office, a virtual office area and a user common space area in accordance with the received display data.

38. (Amended) The distributed office system managing method according to claim 21, wherein the character information concerning the working situation is inputted by a telephone set ten key, in addition to by the terminal device.

39. (Amended) The distributed office system managing method according to claim 21, further comprising the steps of:

setting a user's standard working time by the server device;

sending an instruction for melody sound to the terminal device, and

receiving the sent instruction for the melody sound by the terminal device to ring by an attached sound source device the melody sound at a work start time, a lunch break start time, a lunch break end time, a work end time, and a core time end time for an ordinary working user.

40. (Amended) The distributed office system managing method according to claim 21, further comprising the steps of: